

March 7, 1983

of the Omaha Suburban Area of Council of Schools and see what the organization is all about and Article III says, "The objects and purpose of this corporation shall be to maintain a liaison with the government agencies providing funds for educational purposes inclusive of the State of Nebraska and the United States of America, to maintain a liaison with the various legislative bodies whose acts affect the educational activities of the several members of this corporation and as a part to enter into all contracts necessary to the attainment of objectives stated in this article." I submit to you that these schools that are involved in this corporation are actually people who will benefit from the Lands and Funds and I think it would be rather hard for us to say that Jerry, serving on that committee, may not affect distribution of funds. For that reason I personally feel that he has a conflict of interest and will vote accordingly.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would ask your support for the confirmation of Senator Koch. I think if you do take the time to read the Attorney General's opinion I think you would agree with my assessment that it seems to me to be stretching a point beyond what I would consider to be reasonable. The law talks about actively engaged in the teaching profession. I think the "actively" clause tells us that they are not talking about somebody who was a teacher or is somehow peripherally involved in teaching but is "actively" involved in the teaching profession and that emphasis has to be recognized and I think that this is stretching this interpretation to a point I think is unreasonable and I would ask Senator Vickers if he could respond to a question. It seems to me that we had an appointment come through here recently by the way....a person by the name of Brent Stevenson, I think most of you know, who is a very fine man, who I respect very much and was appointed to the Educational Lands Board, but if you interpret this language to include Jerry Koch, then you have to interpret this language a similar way to include Brent Stevenson because Brent Stevenson is employed by the University of Nebraska Medical Center. He works for them. It is an educational institution and, thus, he would be actively engaged in the teaching profession just as Jerry Koch who is employed by an institution is now being interpreted to be actively employed in a teaching profession. That is how far I think you are stretching the interpretation at this point. Mr. Stevenson went through without any questions asked, without any problem and I think that this is a situation that should be raised in your own mind about being consistent and, Senator Vickers, if you could speak to that, whether the Stevenson